DC COMICS™
THE NEW 52!
NIGHTWING
14
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RATED T TEEN
DCCOMICS.COM
LADY SHIVA STRIKES!

After witnessing the murder of his parents, teenager Richard "Dick" Grayson was taken under Batman's wing and trained as Robin, the Dark Knight's partner in his war on crime. But when the boy became a man, he left the Batcave and now serves his own brand of justice!
DC COMICS™ PRESENTS:
NIGHTWING IN
DIE FOR ME
Not only is the Joker back in Gotham City--*
--I spent most of the night hunting Lady Shiva, the world's deadliest assassin--
--Following up every homicide that fit her M.O.
A local drug kingpin with a slit throat seemed a likely target--
--but my investigation led to the Tiger Claws.
Or, as I prefer to think of them, the Clueless Kittens.
*See Batman #13! --B.C.

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After eliminating all the domestic disputes and victims of gunplay--
--only one other murder fits Lady Shiva's profile.
A minor government bureaucrat believed to be the victim of a mugging gone bad.
I know just the person to ask to look into him.
Lucky for me, Lucius Fox doesn't keep banker's hours.
GRAYSON?
THIS MUST BE IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO CALL SO ERRLY.
IT'S BARELY DAWN.
DID I WAKE YOU?
NOT AT ALL! I'M FINISHING UP A LATE NIGHT PROJECT.
LOT OF THAT GOING AROUND.
I NEED YOU TO BACKGROUND A GENTLEMAN NAMED WESLEY C. BICOLOSI.
NAME SOUNDS VAGUELY FAMILIAR.
BUT I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING.
I'LL GET BACK TO YOU.
NO RUSH.
I still have to wrap these perps for the police, change my clothes--

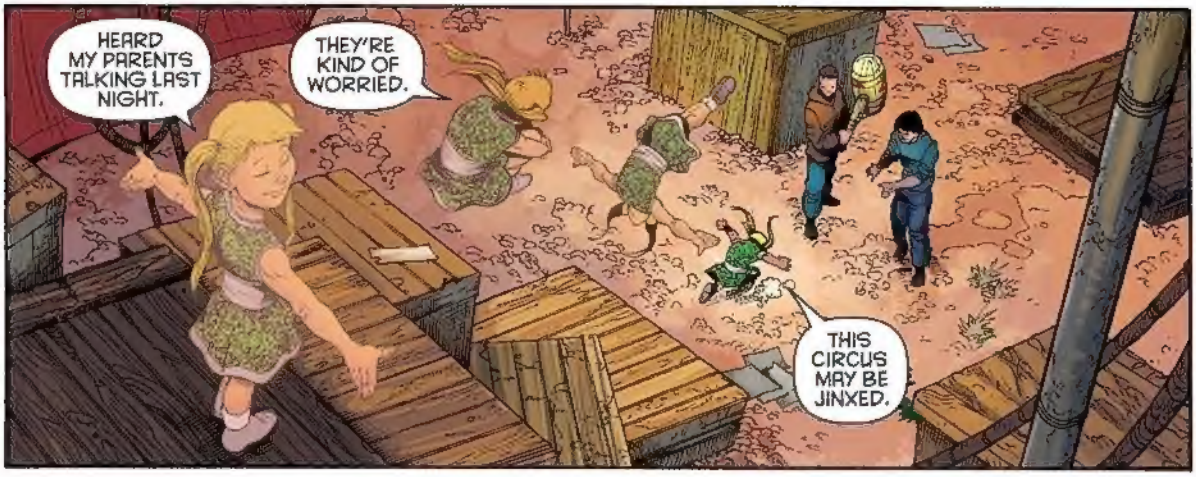
—and get to Amusement Mile for the morning construction update.
I've invested every cent I have into this project so that Haly's Circus and the people of Gotham have a permanent playground. A place of happiness.

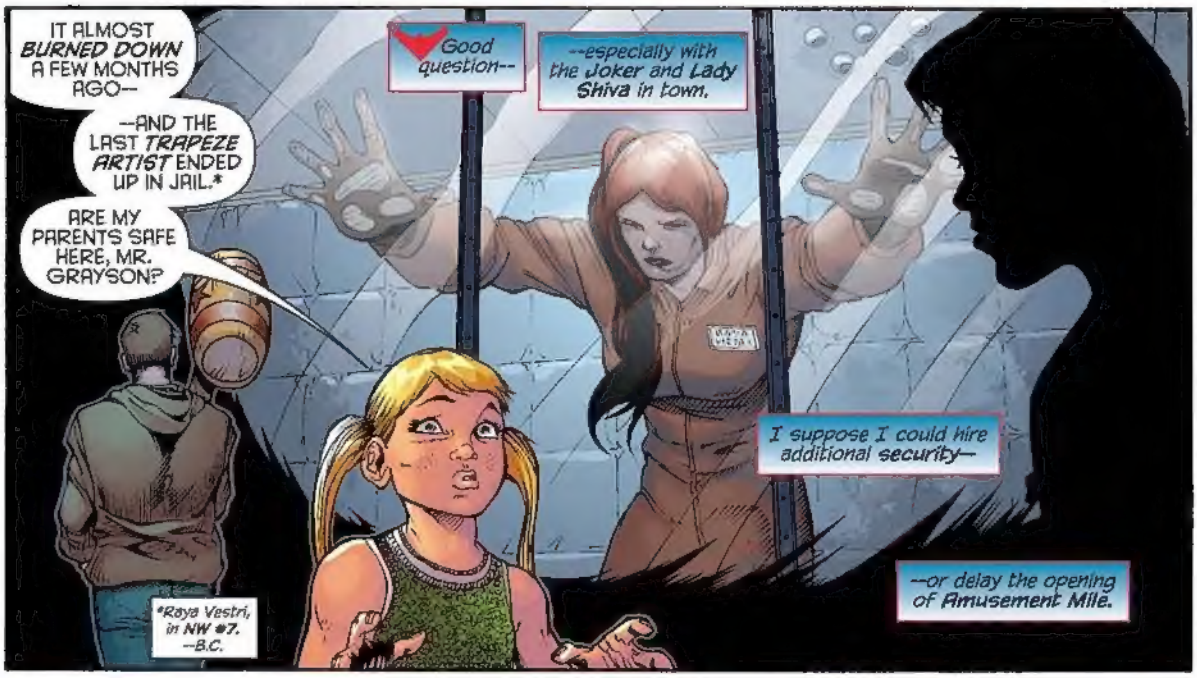
STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU INSISTED ON SUCH A BIG FERRIS WHEEL.
SEEMS A LITTLE OLD-FASHIONED.
YOU KIDDING, JIMMY? I LOVED THIS RIDE WHEN I WAS A KID.
AND YOU CAN SEE IT FOR MILES WHEN IT'S ALL LIT UP—A SHINING BEACON FOR GOTHAM CITY!
I GUESS.

HAVE YOU SIGNED ANY MORE ACTS?
THE HUMAN CANNONBALL AND THE HIGH WIRE PEOPLE ARE IN.
FLORIDA MADE THEM GOOD OFFERS.
CAME AFTER ME, TOO.
SO WHAT'D YOU SAY, JIMMY? I NEED YOU.

I SHOULD HAVE MY HEAD EXAMINED, BUT...YEAH... I'M STAYING.
LOT OF PEOPLE CONSIDER YOU A FLAKE—A MAN WHO NEVER STICKS TO ANYTHING!

YOU'VE SHOWN ME SOMETHING IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, DICK.
NEVER MISSED A CONSTRUCTION MEETING. ALWAYS AVAILABLE WHEN I CALLED.
WHATEVER HAPPENS, I'M WITH YOU.
IS IT SAFE?


HEARD MY PARENTS TALKING LAST NIGHT.
THEY'RE KIND OF WORRIED.
THIS CIRCUS MAY BE JINXED.


IT ALMOST BURNED DOWN A FEW MONTHS AGO—
--AND THE LAST TRAPEZE ARTIST ENDED UP IN JAIL.*
ARE MY PARENTS SAFE HERE, MR. GRAYSON?
Good question--
--especially with the Joker and Lady Shiva in town.
I suppose I could hire additional security—
--or delay the opening of Amusement Mile.
*Raya Vestri, in NW #7. --B.C.

But there will always be another Joker or Lady Shiva.
I WANT YOU AND YOUR PARENTS TO MAKE HALY'S CIRCUS YOUR HOME, CHRISTINA.
I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO KEEP YOU SAFE.

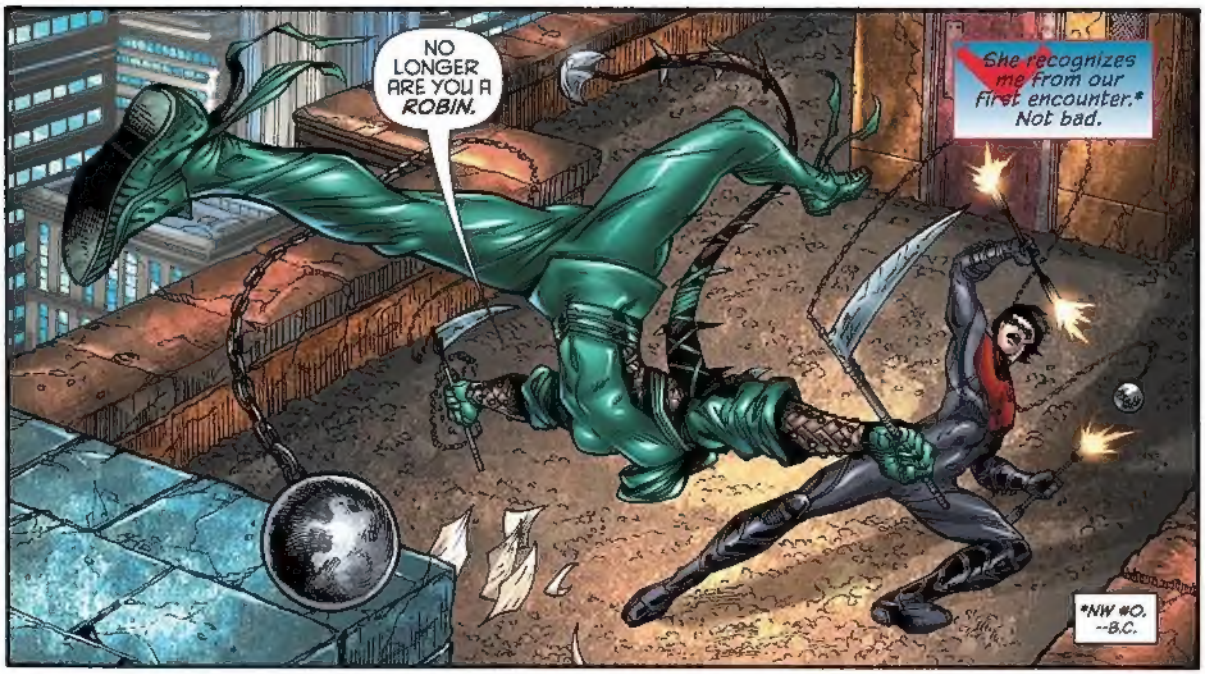
I KNEW I COULD TRUST YOU!
Can you? I once made the same promise to Raya—
--but that was before she helped try to destroy my circus and kill me.

I return home an hour later, take a quick shower--
--and am rewrapping my broken ribs--*
--a subtle reminder that neither my fighting skills nor my body armor will ever be as effective as I want--
*Suffered in NW #12. —B.C.
--when I receive an unexpected phone call.
'MORNING, DICK. I ASSUME EVEN YOU'RE UP BY NOW.
SONIA?
Sonia Branch and I have a complicated relationship--to put it mildly.
She works for Gotham Municipal, the bank that holds the mortgage on Amusement Mile... and her father, the late Tony Zucco, murdered my parents.
I CALLED TO REMIND YOU TO DROP OFF THOSE PAPERS FOR THE TITLE COMPANY--
--AND TO APOLOGIZE FOR STANDING YOU UP LAST NIGHT.
I GOT STUCK IN THE OFFICE UNTIL THE WEE HOURS--
--WITH THE MOST OBNOXIOUS LITTLE MAN.
UHHH... SORRY TO HEAR IT?
She's calling to apologize? I thought our dinner was supposed to be a business meeting, but she's making it sound like a date.
HOW ABOUT WE RESCHEDULE?
I'LL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE WITH THIS S.E.C. THING I MENTIONED TO YOU YESTERDAY.
CALL MY ASSISTANT MELODY. SHE'LL ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT.
And--just like that--we're back to business meeting.
Dealing with Sonia can be so exhausting. I have no idea how she sees me or--to be absolutely honest--if I even care.

MR. GRAYSON? I MANAGED TO GET A LINE ON BICOLOSI.
HE'S A GOVERNMENT REGULATOR FOR THE BANKING INDUSTRY.
CREATED QUITE A STIR RECENTLY WHEN HE DISCOVERED A FOREIGN INVESTMENT LOOPHOLE--
--WHICH COULD BE EXPLOITED FOR INTERNATIONAL MONEY LAUNDERING.
HOW BIG A LOOPHOLE?
ONE EASILY WORTH MILLIONS--POSSIBLY BILLIONS.
THE S.E.C. IS LOOKING INTO IT NOW, AND OUR FRIEND SONIA BRANCH IS A KEY WITNESS.
THANKS, LUCIUS--YOU'RE THE BEST!
The Penguin told me yesterday that no one knows Lady Shiva's target... or targets.
What if she's here for this S.E.C. thing?
I'm probably overreacting--
--but I can't take that risk.

Especially if there's even a remote possibility that Sonia is in danger.
At first glance, the reappearance--
--of both the Joker and Lady Shiva--
--seems too coincidental to be random chance.
But the Clown Prince commits his own murders, and this S.E.C. business doesn't sound like him.
Besides, Batman is aware of my business dealings with Sonia--
--and would have given me a heads-up if he even suspected a link.
My best bet is to start at the S.E.C. building--
--and scout the area.
WHOA!

GRACEFUL AND FLUID AS EVER.
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE, LITTLE BIRD.
LADY SHIVA.
IN CASE YOU'RE INTERESTED, IT'S
NIGHTWING

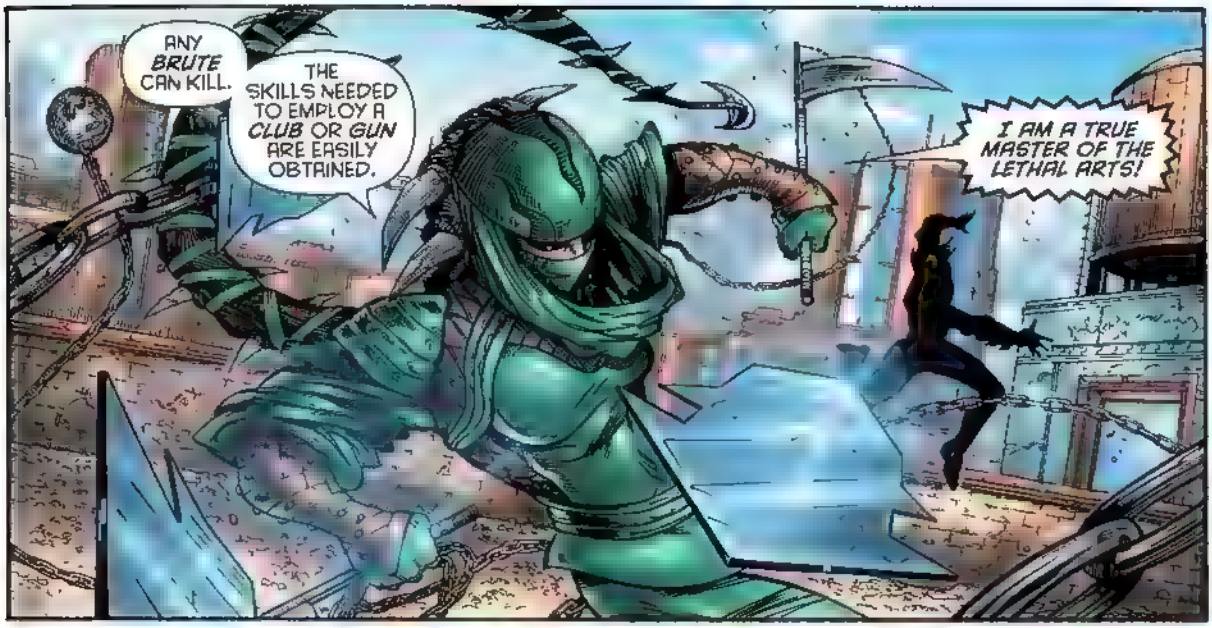

NO LONGER ARE YOU A ROBIN.
She recognizes me from our first encounter.* Not bad.
*NW #0. --B.C.

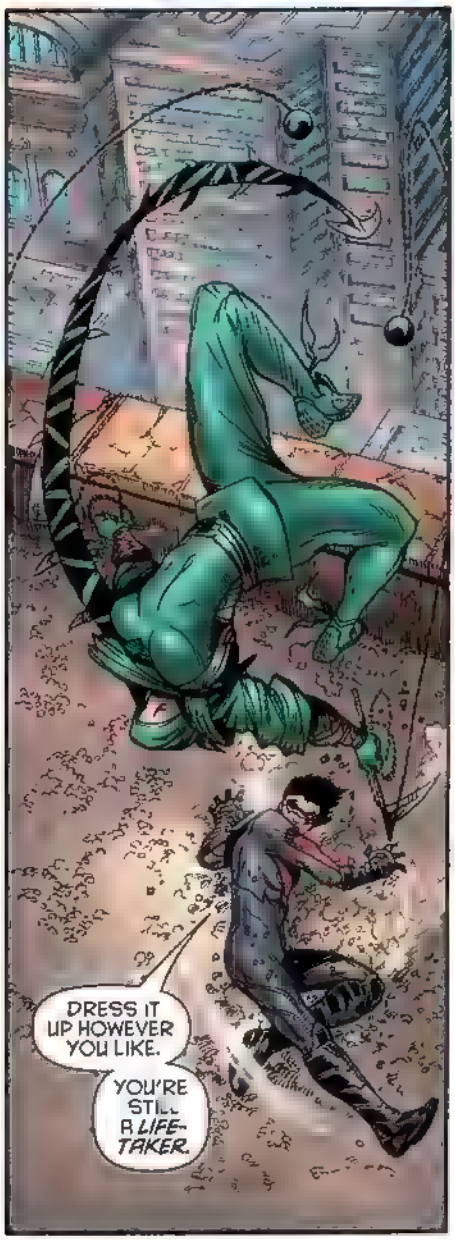
BUT STILL YOU FLY IN THE SHADOW OF THE BAT.
KWUMP

IF HE ONCE FELL BEFORE ME—

--HOW CAN YOU EVEN HOPE TO SURVIVE?

-WHEW-
CLANGG
EXCELLENT.
GREATLY HAVE YOUR SKILLS AND SPEED IMPROVED SINCE LAST WE MET.
AND YOU HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN ME DANCE.
A TACTICAL RETREAT?
-TT-
YOU SQUANDER YOUR NATURAL TALENTS WHEN YOU COULD BE--
--SO MUCH MORE!
How does she launch so many simultaneous attacks?
And, more important--
--they're tough to defend against.
MURDER-FOR-HIRE ISN'T FOR ME, SHIVA.
NO OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONAL GROWTH.

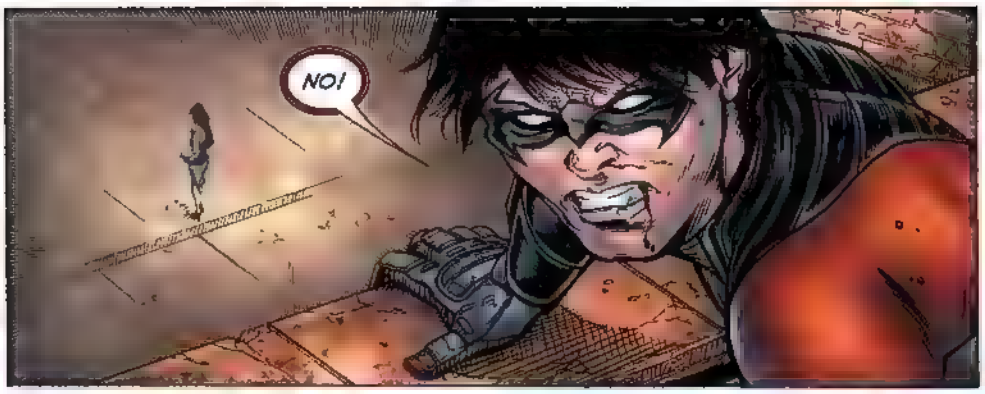

ANY BRUTE CAN KILL.
THE SKILLS NEEDED TO EMPLOY A CLUB OR GUN ARE EASILY OBTAINED.
I AM A TRUE MASTER OF THE LETHAL ARTS!


DRESS IT UP HOWEVER YOU LIKE.
YOU'RE STILL A LIFE-TAKER.

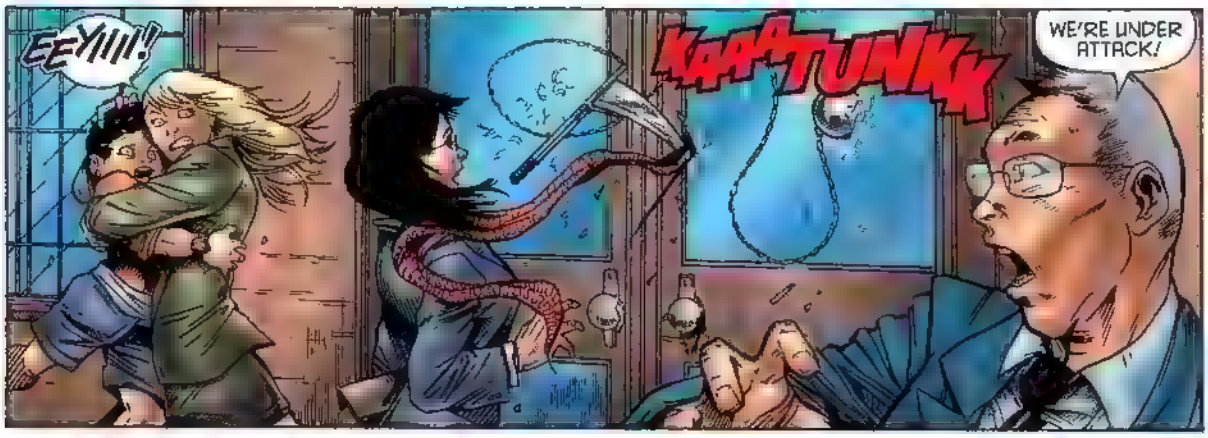
AM I ANY WORSE THAN THE AMERICAN CORPORATIONS THAT EXPLOIT THE CHINESE?
THE ENERGY COMPANIES THAT POISON OUR AIR AND DRINKING WATER?
OR THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY WHICH HAS MURDERED MILLIONS?
YOU'RE COMPARING APPLES TO ORIGAMI.

INDEED, BUT--LIKE THEM--I AM UNHAMPERED BY CONSCIENCE OR GUILT.
MINE IS AN ANCIENT AND HONORABLE PROFESSION.

DOES IT COME WITH A *RETIREMENT PLAN?*
OR ISN'T THAT EVEN AN ISSUE FOR SOMEONE ON THE *ASSASSIN TRACK?*
TWAKK
DO YOU MOCK OUT OF *IGNORANCE*--
--OR *FEAR?*
MOST WOMEN ENJOY MY CHATTER.
BUT THEY'RE NOT, *Y'KNOW,* PSYCHOPATHIC OR--
--Sonia!
DO I SUDDENLY HAVE A *COMPETITOR* FOR YOUR ATTENTIONS?
OR HAVE YOU SOMEHOW GLEANED MY *TARGET?*
NO MATTER--MY TASK WILL NOW CONCLUDE...


NO!

NO!
FOOL! IF YOU'VE RUINED MY AIM--!


EEYIII!
KAPATUNKK
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

RUN--!
SECURE THE AREA!
YOU OKAY, MA'AM?
I...
WE NEED TO LOCK DOWN THE BUILDING--

—YOU IN OR OUT?!
IN!
Sonia...
...she didn't let Shiva intimidate her.
She found a way to finish what she started.
So can I!
KWAPPP

TEST NOT MY PATIENCE, LITTLE BIRD.
THOUGH YOUR SKILLS ARE IMPRESSIVE--
--THEY *PALE* BEFORE SHIVA'S!
HOW DID YOU *GET* SO GOOD?
WE SEEM TO BE ROUGHLY THE SAME *AGE*--
--BUT YOU ALREADY HAD A *REPUTATION* AS AN ASSASSIN WHEN WE FIRST MET.
*APPEARANCES*-- LIKE *REPUTATIONS*-- CAN OFTEN BE USED TO DECEIVE.

WE BOTH WEAR *MASKS* FOR A REASON.
WHAT DO *YOU* SEEK TO HIDE?
KRA
AAKK
ARRGH!

AS I SUSPECTED.
YOU WERE FIGHTING AT A DISADVANTAGE.
SUBCONSCIOUSLY GUARDING YOUR R.IBS.
AN INJURY FROM A PREVIOUS BATTLE, NO?
WHAT...WHAT DIFFERENCE...DOES THAT MAKE?

MORE THAN YOU KNOW, LITTLE BIRD.
TWOKKK

Can't... lose... consciousness.
There's... got to be a way to beat her.
Just got to... find it.
YOU FAILED, LADY SHIVA.
YOU MISSED YOUR TARGET.
DID I, LITTLE BIRD?
YOU'RE LEAVING ME ALIVE...?
I DO NOT WASTE MY SKILLS.
YOU HAVE SHOWN MUCH THIS DAY--
--AND THE TIME IS COMING WHEN I MAY NEED EVEN MORE FROM YOU.
WAIT! CAN YOU AT LEAST TELL ME WHO HIRED YOU?
WAS IT THE JOKER?
WAS IT JOKER?
HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA!

THE ICEBERG CASINO...
YES, I'M WATCHING THE NEWS NOW...
...THE REMAINDER OF YOUR FEE HAS ALREADY BEEN WIRED TO YOUR ACCOUNT.
A PLEASURE AS ALWAYS, MY DEAR.
...ALLEGED TERRORIST ATTACK IN DOWNTOWN GOTHAM...
LADY SHIVA COMPLETED HER MISSION, OGILVY.
THANKS TO THE MURDER OF BICOLOSI AND THE ATTACK ON THE BUILDING ITSELF, THE S.E.C. POSTPONED THE HEARINGS.
KNOWING HOW THESE THINGS WORK, I CAN NOW REORGANIZE MY LAUNDERING OPERATION IN AN ORDERLY MANNER.
YOU CONTINUE TO AMAZE ME, MR. COBBLEPOT.
YOU ENGINEER THE ASSASSINATION OF BICOLOSI, THEN YOU'RE PRAISED FOR PREVENTING THE MURDER OF BRUCE WAYNE.*
BUT WHY DID YOU TIP OFF NIGHTWING TO LADY SHIVA?
I KNEW HE COULDN'T SAVE BICOLOSI, BUT CAPTURING SHIVA WOULD HAVE SAVED ME A RATHER EXORBITANT FEE.
AND IF SHE KILLED HIM, IT WOULD ALSO HAVE BEEN A WIN!
YOU THINK OF EVERYTHING, SIR.
*In Detective Comics #14. --B.C.
CAN I ASK HOW YOU PLAN TO DEAL WITH THE JOKER?
-WAH-

BLACKGATE PRISON...
W-WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS?
IS SOMEONE THERE?
RAYA VESTRI...?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR A JOKE?
JOE
NEXT:
DEATH OF THE FAMILY
...AND NIGHTWING'S NIGHTMARE BEGINS!

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